

2025.PHHC.177281



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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP-26967-2025

Date of Decision: 19.12.2025

Lakshika Rathore (Minor) Through Her Mother Deepa

..... Petitioner

Versus

Union of India and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSH BUNGER

Present: Mr. Manoj Pundir, Advocate and
Mr. Puneet Munjal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Shubham Thakur, Advocate
for respondents No.1 and 2.

Mr. Pankaj Mulwani, Senior DAG, Punjab.

HARSH BUNGER J. (ORAL)

Petition herein is, *inter alia*, seeking a writ in the nature of Mandamus, directing respondent No.2 Regional Passport Officer, Chandigarh, to re-issue passport to the petitioner (minor) in view of application dated 17.07.2025 (Annexure P-1).

2. Short reply dated 10.11.2025 of Ms. Priyanka Mehtani, I.F.S., Regional Passport Officer, Chandigarh, is filed on behalf of respondent No.2 in Court today, which is taken on record, subject to all just exceptions. A copy thereof is also supplied to learned counsel for the petitioner, in Court

today itself.

3. During the course of hearing, learned counsel for respondents No.1 and 2 has referred to paragraphs No.7 and 8 of the aforesaid reply dated 10.11.2025; which read as under:-

“7. That in the instant case, the mother of the petitioner has not selected any of the options available in “annexure C” which was submitted at the time of application. Therefore, mother has to submit either father’s consent OR duly filled “annexure C” with applicable option along with supporting documents mentioned below the selected option.

8. That the answering respondent undertakes to decide the application of the petitioner as per law after receipt of clear Police Verification Report along with the Consent of the Father of the petitioner or with a duly filled Annexure C with the supporting documents.”

4. Learned counsel for respondents No. 1 and 2, while placing reliance upon the above extracted paragraphs, submits that since the natural guardian of the petitioner (minor) failed to fill in the complete revised Annexure ‘C’, which is a mandatory requirement for the issuance of a passport, the application submitted on behalf of the petitioner could not be processed. He further submits that in case the petitioner (minor), through her natural guardian, applies afresh for the issuance of a passport in terms of the revised Annexure ‘C’ (a copy whereof has been supplied by learned counsel for respondents No.1 and 2 to learned counsel for the petitioner in Court today during the course of proceedings), along with all the requisite documents and information, within a period of two weeks from today, the petitioner’s passport application shall be considered and decided by the competent authority, in accordance with law, within a period of eight weeks from the date of such submission.

5. Keeping in view the aforesaid submissions made by learned counsel for respondents No.1 and 2, the present writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the petitioner to apply afresh for the issuance of a passport by filing an application in terms of the revised Annexure 'C' before the passport authorities within a period of two weeks from today.

5.1 It goes without saying that in the event such an application, in the revised format, is filed on behalf of the petitioner within the stipulated period of two weeks from today, the passport authorities shall process the petitioner's application and take a final decision thereon within a period of eight weeks from the date of filing of such application.

6. All pending application(s), if any, shall also stand closed.

19.12.2025

Apurva

(HARSH BUNGER)
JUDGE

1. Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

2. Whether reportable : Yes/No